

Introduction to Lahore-Lucknow Kathak: Practice and Ethnography (SS 1303)

Credit Hour: 4

Teaching Mode: In-person

Schedule: Monday to Friday (10:00 AM – 12:50 PM)

Instructor: Sadaf Habib

Description:

Kathak, like many other forms of traditional art in South Asia, is primarily about connecting to, beautifying, and cultivating our inner self and sharing that cultivation with a larger community. How can bringing rhythm and melody into our minds and bodies in this particular way enrich us? It can enable us to draw from our regional history and wisdom, convey myths and stories and communicate our personal emotions and aspirations. In this course, we will explore the vocabulary of this art form, specifically the Lahore-Lucknow style, through practice and ethnographic study. We will spend most of our time refining basic footwork (tatkaar) and hand movements (hastak) and by the end the semester, learn a few traditional compositions. Through digital ethnographies, we will further conceptualize the aesthetics and ideals of this form. Additionally, we will briefly study the political, historical and current discourse around Kathak. This course will equip you with a foundation to further pursue this dance as well as better understand how it plays a role in our society.